

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are independent. Claims 1-8 are amended.

On pages 2 and 3, the Office Action objects to the specification for allegedly failing to provide a proper antecedent for claimed subject matter. On page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. On page 4, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. On pages 4-8, the Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0028654 to Abjanic (hereinafter "Abjanic") in view of Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0097495 to Horvitz (hereinafter "Horvitz") and newly applied U.S. Patent No. 6,629,149 to Fraser (hereinafter "Fraser"). These objections and rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On pages 2 and 3, the Office Action objects to the specification for allegedly failing to provide a proper antecedent for claimed subject matter. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the specification provides no discussion for validating a fetched document, where the fetched document is a schema document. In response, claim 1 is hereby amended to recite "validating the document according to the

fetches schema," language that closely resembles lines 10-14 of page 9 in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that, "Although the specification appears to provide support for validating XML documents, there is no support for validating schema documents." On page 4, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Here, the Examiner alleges that the "fetched" and "validated" documents are ambiguous and implies that these terms refer to schema documents.

In response, independent claim 1 now recites "validating the document according to the fetched schema." Lines 10-14 of page 9 in the specification, for example, provide written description to support this subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

On pages 4-8, the Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Abjanic, Horvitz, and Fraser. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which claim 2 depends, now recites, "instructions that fetch a schema associated with the packets, the schema containing routing rules." Claims 3, 5 and 7, from which claims 4, 6 and 8 depend, respectively, contains similar recitations.

It is respectfully submitted that Abjanic, Horvitz, and Fraser do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter from the rejected claims quoted above. For independent claim 1, the Abjanic, Horvitz, and Fraser combination lacks instructions that fetch a schema associated with packets, the schema containing routing rules; instructions that validate a sent document according to the fetched schema; instructions that pass the validated document to a routing instruction processor; instructions that interpret the routing rules in the schema; and instructions that use the interpreted routing rules to redirect the packets to a specified server. Regarding independent claims 3, 5, and 7, the Abjanic, Horvitz, and Fraser combination lacks instructions that direct the content switch to fetch the schema in order to obtain routing rules. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 respectively depend from independent claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 are also allowable at least on the basis of their respective dependence upon allowable independent claims. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-8 as allegedly being unpatentable over the Abjanic, Horvitz, and Fraser combination be withdrawn.

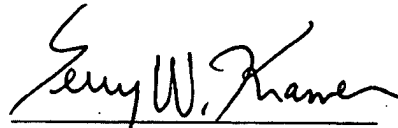
CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3097

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Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", written over a horizontal line.

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